



DEMOCRATIC
POLICY
COMMITTEE

THE FAILED GOP CONGRESS: A REMARKABLE LACK OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPECIAL REPORT

House Democratic Policy Committee
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The second session of the GOP 106th Congress has had few important legislative accomplishments.

First of all, rather than enacting important legislation, at the bidding of their special-interest allies such as drug companies and the HMO industry, the GOP leadership has been spending the last two years blocking key initiatives that would meet the needs of ordinary working families. As a result, there has been:

- ! No enactment of a Medicare prescription medicine benefit for seniors;
- ! No enactment of managed care reform;
- ! No enactment of key measures to improve public education;
- ! No enactment of a minimum wage increase;
- ! No enactment of measures strengthening Social Security and Medicare;
- ! No enactment of gun safety measures; and
- ! No enactment of major campaign finance reform.

Accompanying this DPC report, there is a DPC report entitled “GOP Is Blocking Congress from Making Progress for Working Families.” That report provides an overview of how the GOP has been successful at blocking each of these initiatives – while at the same time receiving enormous campaign contributions from their special-interest friends.

While blocking key initiatives, the GOP leadership has also been spending the year wasting precious legislative time passing bills that are really nothing more than election-year press releases – bills the House GOP leadership has known the President wouldn’t sign and in many cases known the Senate would ignore.

As a result, even among the limited goals that the Republican leadership set out at the beginning of the year, the list of bills enacted into law is shockingly short. For example, there is:

- ! No ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Reauthorization;
- ! No Older Americans Act Reauthorization;
- ! No Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reauthorization;
- ! No privacy measures;
- ! No bankruptcy reform;
- ! No electricity restructuring;
- ! No brownfields initiative; and
- ! No NASA Reauthorization.

The few accomplishments that Congress has achieved this year were when Republicans decided to reach out to Democrats and work on a bipartisan basis. The handful of bills that were true accomplishments included Repealing the Social Security Earnings Limit (contained in the President’s budget the last two years); Requiring Disclosure by Section 527 Political Organizations; and the bipartisan E-Signatures bill. However, unfortunately, there is just a handful of such achievements; generally, the Republicans have simply squandered the last seven months.

This DPC report contains the following:

- ! Section I provides an overview of the type of election-year press releases that the GOP leadership has been wasting precious legislative time on this year – instead of providing real solutions for working families;
- ! Section II provides an overview of many of the things that the GOP leadership claimed they would get accomplished this year – but haven't; and
- ! Section III provides an overview of the few things that did get done this year – when Republicans decided to work with Democrats to reach bipartisan achievements.
- ! The Appendix provides a list of the 78 bills signed into law so far this year.

SECTION I. GOP CONGRESS HAS BEEN PASSING ELECTION-YEAR PRESS RELEASES, RATHER THAN BILLS THEY EXPECT THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN

Bills Too Extremist To Be Signed by the President

! GOP Version of Marriage Penalty Relief

Earlier this year, the House GOP leadership decided that, on the issue of marriage penalty relief, they wanted an election-year press release -- and not an accomplishment for American families. That is why they wrote a "marriage penalty relief" bill that was targeted to the wealthiest households and where half of the relief went to those not paying any marriage penalty at all -- i.e., a bill that they knew the President would not sign. By contrast, President Clinton has made clear that he would sign a real marriage penalty relief bill -- a bill where all of the tax relief is focused on eliminating the marriage penalty for working families.

The GOP marriage penalty bill is not only targeted to the wealthy, it is also fiscally irresponsible. The cost of the GOP marriage penalty relief bill grew from \$182 billion over ten years in the House-passed version to \$292.5 billion over ten years in the conference report sent to the President. About two-thirds of the tax relief in the conference report would benefit the top 30% of married couples.

! GOP Version of Estate Tax Relief

Similarly, on the issue of estate tax relief, the House GOP leadership decided that they wanted an election-year press release -- and not an accomplishment for American families. That is why they wrote their bill in such a way that fully one-half of the tax relief in the bill goes to only 3,000 of America's wealthiest families! By contrast, President Clinton has made clear that he would sign an estate tax relief bill that is targeted to providing relief for family farmers and small business owners.

The GOP estate tax relief bill is also enormously fiscally-irresponsible. Its true costs are disguised by calling for a slow phase-in. As a result, the cost of the bill explodes from \$105 billion over the first ten years to \$750 billion over the second ten years.

Were this bill to be signed into law, the efforts to pay down the debt, protect Social Security, and add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare would be dramatically compromised. Republicans were simply unwilling to work with Democrats to produce an estate tax bill which would provide real estate tax relief to those who need it today.

Bills House GOP Passed As Press Releases, Knowing Senate Would Ignore

As important priorities go nowhere, the House Republican Congressional Leadership spent precious legislative days wasting time on bills they thought were good election-year press releases but knew had no legislative future and would even be ignored by the GOP Senate. These included:

! H.R. 4230, Sunsetting the Tax Code

Another perfect example of the House GOP leadership wasting precious legislative time on election-year press releases is the GOP bill to sunset the tax code. Every year in April, the House GOP leadership trots out this irresponsible, silly piece of legislation. Every year, House Republicans pass it and send it over to the Senate – and every year, Senate Republicans give it the consideration it deserves – i.e., they ignore it. This radical measure proposes to eliminate the entire Federal tax code, not later than 2004. And the measure calls for abolishing the current code without indicating what it should be replaced with. After six years of trotting out this old chestnut, one would think that the GOP leadership would decide to stop wasting the House's time.

! H. J. Res. 94, Constitutional Amendment Requiring Supermajority for Tax Increases

Similarly, another example of an election-year press release that House Republicans trot out virtually every April is a constitutional amendment to require a supermajority vote for tax increases. And every year, the House Republican leadership fails to get sufficient votes to adopt this constitutional amendment. The reason that this proposal is not adopted is that it is a bad idea. Among its many flaws are the following: 1) freezing the current system with all of its inefficiencies and inequities in place; 2) making it more difficult to close corporate loopholes and tax loopholes for the rich; and 3) weakening the fundamental principle of majority rule in government.

H.R. 3822, “Oil Price Reduction Act”

Despite the fact that fuel prices have climbed at a record-breaking pace in the past year, the only “answer” the Republicans had to this problem was to bring up a meaningless, toothless H.R. 3822, “The Oil Price Reduction Act.” This bill addressed existing policy toward countries engaged in oil price fixing through nonbinding policy statements, reporting requirements, and requested diplomatic actions. Rep. Bereuter, a Republican Congressman from Nebraska, summed up this bill best: *“This is much ado about nothing. ... Let’s admit we’re making ourselves*

feel good, but that's really all it is." Indeed, the bill did not give the President any more authority or require any action that he is not already able to take. Once again, the House passed this meaningless document and sent it to the Senate – and the Senate has given this measure the consideration it deserves (i.e., they have ignored it).

! **H.R. 3859, Social Security and Medicare Lockbox**

Another perfect example of bills as election-year press releases is H.R. 3859 -- the Republican version of "Social Security and Medicare Lockbox." Although this bill is relatively harmless, it fails to go nearly far enough in really protecting the Social Security and Medicare programs. For one thing, the Republicans refused to take Medicare fully off-budget -- which is what Democrats are calling for. Only if Medicare is off-budget will the Medicare program be fully protected. Furthermore, Republicans refused to include Democratic proposals that would not only create Social Security and Medicare lockboxes but would also lengthen the solvency of Social Security until 2057 and Medicare until 2030. The Republican Senate also has no plans to take up this "press-release" bill.

! **Dedicating a Portion of FY 2000 Surplus (H.R. 4601) & FY 2001 Surplus (H.R. 4866) for Debt Reduction**

Both H.R. 4601 and H.R. 4866 are further examples of bills as press releases. These bills do nothing more than current law to use the surplus to reduce the debt, and they were presented by the House Republicans who knew full well that the Senate will ignore them. Rather than establishing a real lockbox to protect Medicare and Social Security surpluses from raids by Republican tax cuts or using a lockbox to make a commitment to eliminate the public debt by allocating part of the surplus each year after 2001, the Republicans chose to attempt to fool voters into thinking they were making progress.

In fact, today (regardless of any action by Congress) on-budget surpluses are already used by Treasury to pay down outstanding public debt. As Ways and Means Ranking Democrat Charles Rangel said during the committee markup of H.R. 4601: "It's hard to vote against a bill that does so little." This is just a promissory note issued by the Republicans to pay down a very small amount of debt before they use up all of the surplus with their massive tax cuts. Both of these bills fall far short of the minimum commitment and action needed.

! **Republican House Leaders Wasting Time Debating Resolutions with No Legal Effect**

Finally, in addition to the time wasted on the specific measures listed above, the House Republican Congressional leadership squandered countless hours of precious legislative time debating resolution after resolution, which even when passed, do not help one single American because they have no force of law. While the subjects of the resolutions are often worthy of praise, the Republican leadership spends an inordinate amount of time on them, ignoring the important issues that Congress should be addressing, such as school modernization, gun safety measures, and managed care reform. A few examples of the way that the House GOP leadership has been using precious legislative time this session are the following non-binding resolutions:

H. Con. Res. 343	Sense of the House Regarding the Importance of Families Eating Together
H Con Res 266	Sense of the House Regarding the Benefits of Music Education
H Res 280	Sense of the House Commending Strong Marriages
H Res 522	Sense of the House on Importance of Responsible Fatherhood
H. Res. 492	Sense of the House in Support of America's Teachers
H. Res. 535	Sense of the House About Using Additional Projected Surplus Funds for Medicare
H. Con. Res. 288	Sense of Congress Regarding the Importance of Families and Children in the United States
H Con Res 288	Support for National Family Day
H Con Res 375	Recognizing National Youth Day
H Res 548	Encouraging Display of National Motto
H Con Res 229	Applauding Congressional Philharmonic Society

Instead of filling the schedule with such non-binding resolutions, the Republicans should be passing real bills that would do such things as support families (such as a Patients' Bill of Rights and a minimum wage increase); aid teachers (such as a seven-year commitment to the class size reduction initiative and school modernization) and fully protect Medicare (such as through creating a real Medicare lockbox and moving Medicare completely off-budget).

SECTION II. THINGS GOP LEADERSHIP SAID THEY WOULD GET DONE THIS YEAR BUT HAVEN'T

Methinks (They) Doth Protest Too Much...

The Republican leadership in Congress seems almost frenzied in their rush to publish list after list of the supposed accomplishments of the 106th Congress. They have a "BEST" Scorecard; a "Five Year Progress Report;" an "eContract;" a "Common Sense Agenda;" an "Accomplishments of the 106th Congress;" a "Getting the Job Done;" a "non-exclusive list of items that could be considered before the August recess;" a "Talking Points" on the "legislative accomplishments of House Republicans this year" and finally the enormous

“Anticipated Legislation for the 106th Congress.” With all their reports and checklists, the Republicans are trying desperately to hide the real story, that the Republican Congressional leadership has, once again, presided over a singularly unproductive Congress. The true record of this Congress is one of mismanagement, inaction and delay, on even the Republicans’ own legislative priorities as set forth in the above-listed documents.

! Republicans Have Failed to Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Although they trumpet their commitment to education at every turn, Republican Congressional leaders have adopted a partisan, divide and do-nothing approach to reauthorization of the historically bipartisan Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The ESEA provides vital assistance to the most vulnerable, educationally challenged children in America. It provides urgent funds to schools for intensive reading assistance, smaller class sizes, bilingual education, teacher professional development, safe and drug free schools, and meaningful after-school and summer programs. **If Republicans leave town this year without enacting the ESEA, it will be the first time the program has permanently lapsed in its 35-year history.**

Republicans have decided to play politics with America’s schoolchildren. In May, Republicans reported out of the Education and Workforce Committee a major piece of the ESEA reauthorization – a highly partisan bill, the “OPTIONS” bill (H.R. 4141), which every major education group opposes. Republicans repeatedly refused to work with Democrats to craft H.R. 4141, and voted en masse to defeat 54 of 56 amendments offered by Democratic Members. As the Republicans reported it, the bill repeals after-school programs, and block grants technology, class size, and safe and drug free schools programs. It robs the programs of focus, accountability, and future funding. It repeals programs that promote the prevention of hate crimes. Additionally, it is loaded down with Federal mandates on controversial social issues such as school prayer. Indeed, the OPTIONS bill is so controversial and divisive that the GOP leadership has been unable to bring it up on the House Floor since May– -- and now the expectation is that the 106th Congress will end and the OPTIONS bill will never be considered and ESEA’s authorization will expire.

! Republicans Hold Up Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

At every turn the Republicans claim they support older Americans but when it comes to legislative action their record tells another story. In this Congress, and every one since they took control of the House, the Republican Congressional leadership has let down the most vulnerable of our older Americans by failing to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. The Older Americans Act provides a wide range of home and community based services, including Meals on Wheels, in every locality in the nation. The Act expired in 1995 under the first full Republican-controlled Congress, and has not been reauthorized since.

Two bills have been introduced this session to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

H.R. 782, the Republican-sponsored bill, is opposed by most senior and non-profit organizations because it would redirect funding from going directly to the organizations which provide services and instead give it to State bureaucracies for redistribution. Even the Republicans' own bill is such a low priority with the Republican leadership that it has not moved since being reported from committee in September of 1999. The Democratic alternative bill to reauthorize the OAA, H.R. 773, has also been killed by Republican inaction. That bill, which has 230 bipartisan cosponsors and wide ranging support from senior and non-profit organizations has been stuck in the Republican-controlled Education and Workforce Committee since March of 1999. This Republican stalling lead House Democrats to attempt to dislodge the bill from committee through a discharge petition. To date 191 Members, have signed the petition, 218 are required to force the bill out of the committee over the obstruction of the committee leadership.

! Republicans Let the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Run Out of Gas

During recent run-ups in gasoline prices across the nation, Republican Congressional leaders were quick to point fingers of blame but slow to move legislation that could have helped bring prices down more quickly. As reported in the New York Times as early as March 23, 2000, Republicans promised that the law authorizing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) would be renewed before it expired. That law, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), expired on March 31, 2000, and with it went the President's authority to use the SPR to protect the American economy from severe gas price shocks.

Nearly 120 days later the Republican leadership in both houses of Congress have not allowed a vote on any measure reauthorizing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The EPCA Reauthorization Act, HR 2884, has languished in the Senate since April. The Senate-passed its own version, S.1051, on September 29, 1999. That bill was referred to the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Power on October 19, 1999 and has not been seen since. Republican promises to renew the Strategic Petroleum Reserve have been as empty as Americans' wallets from paying the inflated gasoline prices the Republicans inaction helped to cause and prolong.

! Republicans Fail to Move Forward on Brownfields Initiative

Over the last couple of years, the Republican Leadership has claimed that one of their legislative objectives was to get a brownfields initiative enacted. And yet, the July 1st Washington Post contained a stunning revelation on why the brownfields initiative has failed to move forward.

"Unbeknownst to most of his colleagues, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott last year made a secret promise in writing to kill [the brownfields initiative].... The Majority Leader's promise has imperiled one of the few environmental initiatives with bipartisan support in the Senate, a measure to amend the Superfund law to ease potential liabilities for developers who buy abandoned factory sites and inner-city junkyards. Democrats and Republicans alike favor such 'brownfields' legislation

because it could limit lawsuits while speeding the redevelopment of blighted industrial areas. But under the written agreement he reached with his GOP colleague, Sen. Michael D. Crapo, Lott pledged, "I have agreed to use the privileges of my position as majority leader to ensure the following: no brownfields proposal or Superfund liability limitation proposal ... will be allowed to be considered or acted upon by the Senate during this Congress, either as a stand-alone bill or as part of any other legislation."

As the Washington Post pointed out, the brownfields initiative has been an initiative with broad bipartisan support – and yet, apparently due to Majority Leader Lott's efforts, no progress has been made on getting a brownfields initiative to President Clinton's desk.

! Republican Leaders Kill Privacy Legislation

Despite the flurry of interest in privacy legislation earlier in the year, it is now apparent that the House GOP leadership has killed any consideration of privacy measures this year. The July 14th CQ Daily Monitor reported the following, "House Republican leaders say that privacy protection legislation -- regardless of focus -- is dead in the House for the year. With the exception of a bill that would call for a study of the issue, measures aimed at protecting consumer privacy will likely not reach the House floor, according to Majority Leader Dick Armey. Leadership staff goes further, saying that ... GOP leaders simply will not let privacy bills reach the floor. The one bill (H.R. 4049) that does have Armey's blessing would create a 17-member Commission for the Comprehensive Study of Privacy. ... Ardent privacy advocates see that measure as a cop-out ... providing some political cover to Members who want to say they have done something on the subject."

! Republican Pandering Slows Down Bankruptcy Reform

The GOP Leadership claims credit for passing bankruptcy reform but, as with so many of their so-called "accomplishments," no bankruptcy provision has become law. The measure has also been held up by Republican pandering to the extreme religious right wing of their party who oppose a provision in the bill that would prevent persons convicted of violence at abortion clinics from discharging fines and other debts arising from those convictions. Although the House passed a bill (HR 833) over a year ago in May 1999, the Senate took no action until February 2, 2000 when it passed its version and requested a conference. Six months later, no conference report has been filed and sent to President Clinton's desk.

! Republican Squabbling Short-Circuits Electricity Deregulation

Despite being noted as a "top priority" in the Republican legislative agenda, comprehensive deregulation of electricity utilities has died in committee due to disagreements among the Republicans' own committee leaders. Republicans Thomas Bliley, Jr., Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, and Joe Barton, Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee have been unable to settle their differences to even report the bill (H.R. 2944) from committee in the House. This,

in spite of the fact that increased electricity demand caused by the booming economy and heat waves, combined with a shortage of generating capacity, has led to spikes in electricity prices, brownouts and even blackouts this summer.

! Republican Partisan Games Delay Launch of NASA Reauthorization

Republicans in Congress have chosen to play partisan games in this Congress rather than getting the NASA Reauthorization enacted. As reported in the press, NASA was forced into the unusual position of opposing its own reauthorization when Republicans amended the bill (H.R. 1654) to restrict how NASA could spend certain funds. NASA's Administrator stated that the bill, as amended, could jeopardize the International Space Station as well as other programs. Support of one program by Vice President Gore triggered GOP efforts to kill the program in order to embarrass the Vice President. The bill languished even before Republican partisanship delayed it further. It sat unaddressed from May to November last year and waited six months for the House leaders to appoint conferees. The bill has now been in conference since May and yet no conference report has been filed and no measure has been sent to the President's desk.

! Republicans Fail to Move National Science Foundation Reauthorization

In spite of broad bipartisan support, and their own conference listing it as anticipated legislation for this session, the GOP leadership has allowed the National Science Foundation reauthorization to sit untouched since February. The bill (H.R. 2086) passed the House by voice vote on February 15, 2000, indicating its broad appeal. Democrats successfully amended the bill on the floor of the House to increase funding for important information technology research to ensure America's continued leadership in this important area. The bill was referred to committee in the Senate on February 22, 2000 and has not moved since.

! Republicans Fail Miserably on Their Promise to Complete the 13 Appropriations Bills Early in the Session

In pronouncement after pronouncement leading up to this summer, House Republicans pledged to revamp the appropriations process to avoid a repeat of last fall, when they were forced to pass six continuing resolutions to keep the government open past the start of the new fiscal year. But now, with only 22 working days remaining in this legislative session, completion of the appropriations process is once again tardy. While House Republicans are quick to claim credit for passing twelve of the thirteen appropriations bills, **only one** of those spending bills, the Military Construction bill, has actually reached the President and been signed. Moreover, of the eleven other bills that have yet to be sent to the White House, **seven** would be pronounced dead on arrival as soon as they reached the President's desk due to severe underfunding of key programs. Clearly, the appropriations bills characterized as accomplishments by the Republican leadership amount to little more than veto fodder and serve only to jeopardize the government's ability to continue to provide the services most important to Americans.

SECTION III. THE FEW THINGS GOP CONGRESS GOT DONE WHEN THEY DECIDED TO WORK WITH DEMOCRATS

There were a few times over the last seven months when Republicans have reached across the aisle and worked with Democrats to get some important achievements done for the American people. Following are the seven significant bipartisan achievements so far in this session.

! **Requiring Section 527 Organizations to Disclose Their Political Activities (PL 106-230)**

“When the House finally voted yesterday morning to require secret campaign slush funds to disclose their donors, the margin of victory was huge. It was hard to remember that this very bill was narrowly defeated two weeks ago and belittled by foes as something the public did not care about. In trying to combat this supposedly unwanted measure, Representative Tom DeLay and the Republican Leadership cooked up a sham alternative that was so punitive toward unions and violative of the privacy rights of nonpolitical groups that their own members could not swallow it. In the end, Mr. DeLay had no choice but to get out of the way and allow a vote on reform or be stampeded by fellow Republicans... The ... lesson is that bipartisanship can carry the day against an entrenched Republican leadership. Mr. DeLay and Mr. Lott have always looked petty and highhighed in opposing sound reform backed by a broad spectrum of the members of Congress.”

(New York Times Editorial, *The End to Secret Campaign Funds*, 6/29/00)

After four months of blocking Democratic efforts to pass legislation which would finally expose the campaign contributions of secret organizations (named Section 527 organizations), the House Republican leadership was finally forced to address the pleas of Democrats and allow a vote on this crucial campaign reform bill. This bill finally requires Section 527 organizations to emerge from the shadows and into the light of public scrutiny. The legislation requires 527 organizations to report their existence to the IRS, file publicly available tax returns, and make public reports specifying annual expenditures of over \$500 to any person and identifying those who contribute more than \$200 annually to the organization.

Democrats forced the Republican leadership to bring this effort to the House floor by filing a discharge petition on June 14. The final 527 disclosure bill passed the House on June 27 by a vote of 385 to 39, and only Republicans – including the champion of 527 stealth pacs, Majority Whip Tom DeLay – voted against this bill. On June 29, the Senate passed this same bill by a vote of 92 to 6 – sending the legislation to the President’s desk for his signature.

! **Repealing the Social Security Earnings Limit – PL 106-182**

On March 1, by a unanimous vote of 422 YEAS, the House passed the bipartisan H.R. 5, Repealing the Social Security Earnings Limit. Under previous law, the earnings limit reduced Social Security benefits of workers from the normal retirement age through age 69 by \$1 for every \$3 they earn in excess of \$17,000.

This bipartisan achievement, the culmination of both Democratic and Republican efforts over the last few years, will completely eliminate the Social Security earnings limit. First raising and then repealing the earnings limit has had the active support of both parties for several years now. Indeed, President Clinton called for the repeal of the earnings limit in his last two budgets. The Senate passed this legislation on March 22 and the President signed this bill into law on April 7.

! **E-Signatures – PL 106-229**

On June 14, the House passed the conference report on Electronic Signatures by a nearly unanimous vote of 426 to 4. This bipartisan legislation would give the same legal effect to digital signatures and electronic contracts as that of written signatures and paper contracts. Democrats worked hard to ensure that this legislation included a balanced and reasonable approach, insisting that consumer protections were included – protections originally opposed by the Republican leadership. This legislation clears the path for the digital age, providing those who engage in electronic commerce with the legal certainty that a contract formed and executed online will be no less valid than its pen and ink equivalent.

! **African Growth and Opportunity Act – PL 106-200**

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 434) conference report passed the House on May 4 with bipartisan support by a vote of 309 to 110. Thanks to a concerted bipartisan effort by Democrat and House Ways and Means Ranking Member Charlie Rangel and the Clinton Administration, the final conference report included important additional benefits for apparel exports from Sub-Saharan Africa for the next 8 years. This Act also includes the following: promotion of the Export Import Bank and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa; reforms for the Development Fund for Africa; providing greater debt relief for Sub-Saharan Africa; funding for an annual high-level summit to discuss economic and trade issues (including a discussion of the impact of AIDS on the African workforce); and an expansion of duty-free GSP benefits to include more products from the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

! **AIR-21 (FAA Reauthorization) – PL 106-181**

The conference report on AIR-21 (FAA Reauthorization) passed the House with bipartisan support by a vote of 319 to 101. This reauthorization was the culmination of a two-year bipartisan legislative effort designed to pass a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill. The length of the effort was a reflection of the difficult issues faced by Democrats and Republicans alike. The final bill will reshape the nation's aviation system – speeding the airport construction boom, boosting airline competition and service to small cities, and spurring a new effort to modernize the air-traffic control system. This bill also supports the Essential Air Service Program which provides important airline service to underserved communities.

! **Crop Insurance/Emergency Assistance to Farmers – PL 106-224**

The conference report on H.R. 2559, the Crop Insurance/Emergency Assistance to Farmers, enjoyed wide bipartisan support and was therefore passed by voice vote on May 25. The House version of this bill also enjoyed wide bipartisan support and was also passed by voice vote on September 29, 1999. Although Democrats were unable to exclude the \$14 million addition for an ethanol plant in the home state of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, this bill did contain \$7.1 billion in FY2000 and FY2001 dollars for emergency aid for farmers. This \$7.1 billion in emergency assistance to farmers was desperately needed by the nation's farmers – as farmers continue to fail to join in the rest of the nation's prosperity, with farm incomes very low in many parts of the country.

! **Supplemental Appropriations / Military Construction Appropriations – PL 106-246**

After 4 months of false starts and delays by the Republicans, the House finally passed the bipartisan conference report on the FY 2000 Military Construction Appropriations bill, which also included the FY 2000 Supplemental Appropriations, by a vote of 306 to 110 on June 29. The Republicans were forced to quit their delay tactics and attempts to add "riders" as the Pentagon warned that the risk of severe cutbacks in Defense Department training and maintenance activities would have been required if funding had been delayed any longer. This supplemental bill included the following: \$1.3 billion to battle drug smugglers in Colombia and other South American countries; \$2 billion to replenish Pentagon accounts used for the Kosovo mission; \$361 million in long-delayed disaster aid for victims of Hurricane Floyd and other natural disasters; and \$661 million for claims settlements and damage resulting from the recent New Mexico fires.

APPENDIX

ONLY 78 Bills Have Been Enacted into Law by the 2nd Session of the 106th Congress

Most of the 78 bills that were enacted into law in the second session of the 106th Congress were noncontroversial, minor bills.

- C **67 of the 78 bills** were so noncontroversial and minor that they were considered in the House under suspension of the rules and/or were passed by voice vote. For example, among these 67 noncontroversial bills:
- C **19, or 1 in 4**, were bills naming post offices, court houses, and other federal buildings;
 - C **3** were bills authorizing Medals of Honor or other awards;
 - C **1** was a bill designating the Washington Opera as the National Opera; and
 - C **2** were bills appointing citizen regents of the Smithsonian Institution!
- C **Only 11 of the 78 bills** were significant enough that they were not considered under suspension of the rules or passed by voice vote (with seven of them – those bolded – important bipartisan achievements, that have been described above):
- PL 106-177 (H.R. 764), Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act
 - PL 106-178 (H.R. 1883), Iran Non-Proliferation Act
 - PL 106-180 (S. 376), Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act
 - **PL 106-181 (H.R. 1000), AIR-21 (FAA Reauthorization)**
 - **PL 106-182 (H.R. 5), Repealing the Social Security Earnings Limit**
 - PL 106-185 (H.R. 1658), Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act
 - **PL 106-200 (H.R. 434), African Growth and Opportunity Act**
 - **PL 106-224 (H.R. 2559), Crop Insurance/Emergency Assistance to Farmers**
 - **PL 106-229 (S. 761), Millennium Digital Commerce Act (E-Signatures)**
 - **PL 106-230 (H.R. 4762), Requiring 527 organizations to disclose their political activities**
 - **PL 106-246 (H.R. 4425), Military Construction Appropriations/Supplemental Approps.**

The 78 Bills Enacted into Law:

- # PL 106-171--S. 1733, Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act
- # PL 106-172--H.R. 2130, Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act
- # PL 106-173--H.R. 1451, Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act
- # PL 106-174--S. 632, Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act
- # PL 106-175--H.R. 3557, Authorizing Congressional Gold Medal for Cardinal O'Connor
- # PL 106-176--H.R. 149, Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act
- # PL 106-177--H.R. 764, Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act

PL 106-178--H.R. 1883, Iran Non-Proliferation Act

! PL 106-179--S.613, Indian Tribal Econ. Development & Contract Encouragement Act

! PL 106-180--S. 376, Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act

PL 106-181--H.R. 1000, AIR-21 (FAA Reauthorization)

PL 106-182--H.R. 5, Repealing the Social Security Earnings Limit

PL 106-183--H.R. 1374, Naming John K. Rafferty Hamilton Post Office Building

PL 106-184--H.R. 3189, Naming Joseph Ileto Post Office

PL 106-185--H.R. 1658, Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act

PL 106-186--S.J. Res. 43, Encouraging free elections and respect for democracy in Peru

PL 106-187--H.R. 1231, Directing conveyance of National Forest lands to Elko Cty., NV

PL 106-188--H.R. 2368, Bikini Resettlement and Relocation

PL 106-189--H.R. 2862, Directing release of reversionary interests held by US in Utah

PL 106-190--H.R. 2863, Clarifying legal effect of acquisition of land in Red Cliffs Desert

PL 106-191--H.R. 3063, Mineral Leasing Act Amendments

PL 106-192--H.R. 1615, Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Extension Act

PL 106-193--H.R. 1753, Methane & Gas Hydrate Research & Development Act

PL 106-194--H.R. 3090, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Amendments

PL 106-195--H.J. Res. 86, Recognizing 50th anniversary of Korean War

PL 106-196--S. 1567, Naming C.B. King United States Courthouse

PL 106-197--S. 1769, Continued Reporting of Intercepted Electronic Communications

PL 106-198--S.J. Res. 40, Appointing Citizen Regent of Smithsonian Institution

PL 106-199--S.J. Res. 42, Reappointing Citizen Regent of Smithsonian Institution

PL 106-200--H.R. 434, African Growth and Opportunity Act

PL 106-201--S. 1744, Continued Submission of Endangered Species Reports

PL 106-202--S. 2323, Amending Fair Labor Standards Act to clarify treatment of stock options

PL 106-203--H.R. 2412, Naming E. Ross Adair Federal Building and U. S. Courthouse

PL 106-204--S. 2370, Naming Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse

PL 106-205--S.J. Res. 44, Recognizing service of minority veterans in WWII

PL 106-206--H.R. 154, Fees for making TV & movies in National Parks and Wildlife Refuges

PL 106-207--H.R. 371, Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000

PL 106-208--H.R. 834, National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 2000

PL 106-209--H.R. 1377, Naming the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building

PL 106-210--H.R. 1832, Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act

PL 106-211--H.R. 3629, American Indian Tribal Colleges & Universities Program Improvements

PL 106-212--H.R. 3707, American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act

PL 106-213--S. 1836, Balance wind, water, and wildlife suitability criteria

PL 106-214--H.R. 3293, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commemorative Plaque Addition

PL 106-215--H.R. 4489, INS Data Management Improvement Act

PL 106-216--H.R. 1953, Authorizing leases of land for Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians

PL 106-217--H.R. 2484, Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota

PL 106-218--H.R. 3639, Naming the Harry S. Truman Federal Building

PL 106-219--H.R. 4542, Designating the Washington Opera as the National Opera

PL 106-220--S. 291, Carlsbad Irrigation Project Acquired Land Transfer Act

PL 106-221--S.356, Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act

PL 106-222--S. 777, Freedom to E-File Act

PL 106-223--S. 2722, Medal of Honor, Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith

PL 106-224--H.R. 2559, Crop insurance / Emergency Assistance to farmers

PL 106-225--H.R. 3642, Gold medal on behalf of Congress to Charles M. Schulz

PL 106-226--H.R. 4387, School Governance Charter Amendments

PL 106-227--H. J. Res. 101, Recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army

PL 106-228--S.1967, Correcting status of land held for the Choctaw Indians

PL 106-229--S. 761, Millennium Digital Commerce Act (E-Signatures)

PL 106-230--H.R. 4762, Requiring 527 organizations to disclose their political activities

PL 106-231--H.R. 642, Naming Mervyn Malcolm Dymally Post Office Building

PL 106-232--H.R. 643, Naming Augustus F. Hawkins Post Office Building

PL 106-233--H.R. 1666, Naming Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. Post Office

PL 106-234--H.R. 2307, Naming Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building

PL 106-235--H.R. 2357, Naming Louise Stokes Post Office

PL 106-236--H.R. 2460, Naming Jay Hanna 'Dizzy' Dean Post Office

PL 106-237--H.R. 2591, Naming William H. Avery Post Office

PL 106-238--H.R. 2952, Naming Keith D. Oglesby Station

PL 106-239--H.R. 3018 , Naming Marybelle H. Howe Post Office

PL 106-240--H.R. 3699, Naming Joel T. Broyhill Postal Building

PL 106-241--H.R. 3701, Naming Joseph L. Fisher Post Office Building

PL 106-242--H.R. 4241, Naming Les Aspin Post Office Building

PL 106-243--H.R. 3051, Directing a feasibility study on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation

PL 106-244--S. 1309, Church Plan Parity and Entanglement Prevention Act

PL 106-245--S. 1515, Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments

PL 106-246--H.R. 4425, Military Construction Appropriations Act

PL 106-247--S. 148, Conservation of Neo-tropical Migratory Birds

PL 106-248--S. 1892, Authorizing the acquisition of the Valles Caldera